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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MULTIPLE WATERSPOUTS

A remarkable case of multiple waterspouts was reported a few years ago to the British Meteorological Office by J.B. Hewitt, chief officer of the steamship "Carston." About five o'clock one afternoon, while near Guantanamo, Cuba, the ship ran into a severe thunderstorm. Hardly had this subsided when the clouds began sending down tapering arms on all sides of the vessel, and several of these formed complete waterspouts. Finally there were nine large spouts, perfectly formed, within a short distance of the ship.

Then a curious sight was witnessed. Around some of these spouts two or three--and in one case four--slender, weedy-looking spouts were formed. They not only traveled with the big spouts, but at the same time circled slowly around them, after the manner of satellites revolving around a planet. Their movements were erratic; sometimes they approached the central spout, sometimes receded from it, at the same time undulating violently. Some of them collapsed before darkness and increasing distance put an end to the strange spectacle.

A similar movement of satellite vortices around a primary has been reported in connection with the "dust devils" of the Indian plains.

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